

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 071110Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 101
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY SCHEDULED TO REOPEN JULY 12

1. EPMG AND MINED HAVE BEEN PLANNING FOR SOME THREE MONTHS
TO REOPEN ADDIS ABABA U. JULY 12 FOR FOURTH-YEAR
STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR NATIONAL WORK CAMPAIGN
"ZEMECHA) OBLIGATION. THIS WOULD INVOLVE APPROXIMATELY 500
STUDENTS WHO WOULD FINISH THE LAST QUARTER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
THEY MISSED IN 1974 WHEN UNIVERSITY WAS CLOSED DOWN. CURRENT
PLANS CALL FOR THE REMAINING STUDENTS TO ENTER THE UNIVERSITY
IN THE FALL.

2. ALTHOUGH ACTING UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. TAYE, CONTINUES
ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS TO FACULTY MEMBERS TO PLAN FOR JULY 12
OPENING, VERY FEW OTHER TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SEEM TO THINK
THIS OPENING DATE CAN BE MET. EVEN MINED EXPRESSED
SOME DOUBT TO EMBOFF THAT JULY 12 OPENING IS
POSSIBLE. MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IS SHORTAGE OF FACULTY
MEMBERS SINCE MOST EXPAT TEACHERS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY, AND
MANY ETHIOPIAN FACULTY MEMBERS ARE STILL ASSIGNED TO ZEMECAH
OR TO OTHER GOVT AGENCIES. ALTHOUGH MINED HAS ATTEMPTED
TO RECRUIT INSTRUCTORS FROM "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES

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(EAST EUROPE), THIS EFFORT HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY SUC-

CESSFUL. FEW EASTERN EUROPEAN PROFESSORS APPARENTLY HAVE THE NECESSARY COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH (THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION), AND EVEN AMONG THOSE FEW THERE IS APPARENTLY SOME RELUCTANCE TO COME TO ETHIOPIA.

3. OTHER PROBLEMS LIKELY TO FORESTALL OPENING INCLUDE LACK OF CURRICULUM IN SOME AREAS AND FACT THAT SOME UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS ARE STILL BEING OCCUPIED BY OTHER GOVT AGENCIES, NOTABLY THE ZEMECHA HQS.

4. COMMENT: NUMEROUS SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT EVEN SHOULD ADMINISTRATION MANAGE TO OPEN THE UNIVERISTY, STUDENTS WHO ARE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD AND OTHERS WISHING TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE DIRG, ARE LIKELY TO DISRUPT ANY CLASSES THAT SHOULD MEET. OUR SOURCES EXPECT FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT ADMITTED BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO COMPLETE ZEMECHA OBLIGATION, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS TO PRE-
SSURE OTHERS TO BOYCOTT CLASSES. IN THE EVENT THIS FAILS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE ORGANIZED TO ATTEMPT TO ACCOMPLISH THE DESIRED END. NEWLY-SCHEDULED ZEMECHA CELEBRATIONS, JULY 17, INTENDED TO FETE "SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF FIRST PHASE OF ZEMECHA" COULD PROVIDE EARLY OCCASION FOR DISRUPTORS TO PUBLICIZE THEIR VIEWS.

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